



Site Development Process

Locate the following information using a Site Analysis Plan (a detailed map of the area):

1. Review the General Management Plan (GMP).
2. Establish boundaries of the site.
3. Make a topographic survey with appropriate contour levels identified for detailed study (usually a minimum of 2 or 3-meter intervals).
4. Locate significant site features: trees, marshes, streams, lakes, ponds, hills, existing structures, archaeological sites.
5. Obtain aerial photographs to confirm survey information.
6. Identify seasonal high water marks.
7. Investigate approval requirements by local & national agencies.
8. Identify potential sustainable power sources on or near the site.
9. Identify potential water supplies on or near the site. What will be the impact of withdrawing that water from its normal flow/location?
10. Investigate soil conditions and bearing capacities for building.
11. Observe prevailing winds and weather patterns as they affect the site in all seasons.
12. Investigate current and planned uses of adjacent properties.
13. Investigate site history if it has been previously used/occupied by humans.
14. Study local building techniques.
15. Identify sources of building materials and methods of transport to the site.
16. Evaluate the relationship of the site to local communities, their use of it in the past and their interest in participating in its future operation.

From: Drumm, Andy. Alan Moore, Andrew Sales, Carol Patterson, and John E. Terborgh. Ecotourism Development: A Manual for Conservation Planners and Managers. Volume II. The Business of Ecotourism Development and Management. The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, Virginia, USA, 2004.